

121 Bergen Street, Apt. C  
Brooklyn, NY 11201  
July 4, 1999

Re Docket #98N-1038<sup>5379</sup> '99 JUL 12 P4:15

Dockets Management Branch  
HFA-305  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane  
Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear FDA managers:

I oppose the radiation of food. I realize that much food is radiated or on its way to become radiated. It is objectionable that this is going on. At the very least, I would like to know which food has been radiated. So, if there is a choice between radiated and non-radiated foods, I would like choose non-irradiated food before radiated food.

There are problems that arise from the irradiation of food. Food can loose its taste and texture. They actually can lose become rancid. They can lose up to twenty percent of their vitamins. This can worsen over time: irradiation can break down cell walls. Vitamin loss, accordingly, can accelerate during storage --up to 70 percent over long periods of time.

There are signs that the digestion of irradiate food is dangerous. Animals that have been fed irradiated food have experienced tumors, reproductive failures and kidney damage.

Finally, accidents involving the radiation materials have occured. The spills and leakages from this have had harmful effects on the people that handle these materials. Additionally, the ground can be negatively affected by radiation chemicals.

I hope that you will place regulations on food irradiation. Principal among these ought to be labeling to indicate that the food had been irradiated.

Thank you.

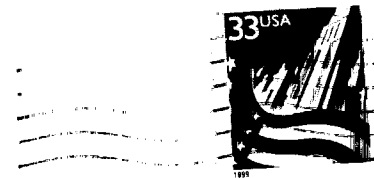
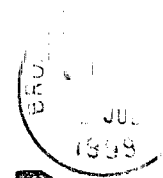
Sincerely,

  
August Leppelmeier

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